# FORMERLY UTILIZED SITES REMEDIAL ACTION PROGRAM

## ELIMINATION REPORT FOR
## UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA
## MACKAY SCHOOL OF MINES
## RENO, NEVADA



Department of Energy
Office of Nuclear Energy
Office of Remedial Action and Waste Technology
Division of Facility and Site Decommissioning Projects

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## INTRODUCTION

The Department of Energy (DOE), Office of Nuclear Energy, Office of Remedial Action and Waste Technology, Division of Facility and Site Decommissioning Projects (and/or predecessor offices and divisions) has reviewed the past activities conducted under contract to the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) at the University of Nevada, Mackay School of Mines, Reno, Nevada. DOE has identified no residual radioactivity associated with AEC operations at the site. The site was subsequently used for additional private (non-AEC) research on uranium ores and is still being used for research and development involving a variety of radioactive materials (including uranium metal) under general and specific licenses issued by the State of Nevada Department of Human Resources, Bureau of Regulatory Health Services. Therefore, this site requires no remedial action and will be included in the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program.

This report presents information supporting the determination that the radiological conditions at the portion of the Mackay School of Mines used under contract to AEC are in compliance with current DOE radiological guidelines and standards[1] and provides assurance that use of this area of the facility will not result in any measurable radiological hazard to site occupants or the general public from radioactive material related to AEC operations.

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[1]U.S. Department of Energy Guidelines for Residual Radioactivity at Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program and Remote Surplus Facilities Management Program Sites (Rev. 1, July 1985).

This elimination report will be archived by DOE through the Assistant Secretary for Management and Administration. A copy of the package will be available for public review between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday (except Federal holidays), at the DOE Public Document Room located in Room 1E-190 of the Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, D.C.

BACKGROUND

Site Function

The University of Nevada conducted developmental studies for AEC involving beneficiation of low-grade uranium ore and extractive metallurgy for recovery of uranium on laboratory and unit process scales. The work was conducted under Contract AT(49-1)-624.

Site Description

Room 12, in the Mackay School of Mines building, a part of the University of Nevada, was apparently the primary facility used in conducting the developmental studies. It is now used as a chemical engineering instructional laboratory. The disposition of the low-grade uranium ore studied has not been completely determined, although it is known that some ore was disposed of as radioactive waste several years ago.

Radiological History and Status

Chicago Operations Office and Argonne National Laboratory personnel visited this facility to conduct a screening survey. No contamination directly attributable to AEC activities was identified. Radioactive material is currently used at the Mackay School of Mines under the University's general license (16-13-0003-02). Based on the data collected to date and the fact that this site is under license, no further DOE action at this facility is needed.

## ELIMINATION ANALYSIS

The preliminary survey revealed that radiation levels at the facility are within background levels measured in the Reno, Nevada environs. Two small spots of minor contamination were identified (in a sink, and on a floor). Because the facility is currently being used under license for work with uranium ore, it is not possible to determine whether the observed contamination is due to current activities or AEC contract work. In addition, the two spots are very small (less than 1 square foot) and pose no health hazard to site occupants. Geiger-Mueller detector readings at 3 feet from the spots were equal to background. Any required decontamination of these spots will be conducted by the University. On the basis of the information summarized in this report, DOE's Division of Facility and Site Decommissioning Projects has determined that no remedial action is necessary at this site and has eliminated the University of Nevada's Mackay School of Mine from further consideration under the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program.

## REFERENCES


- Bauer, R.H. (Department of Energy), to J.L. Liverman (Department of Energy),--"University of Nevada," January 3, 1978.